

The Indianapolis Star

"Serving the Indiana People"

Vol. V

Indianapolis, Indiana, November, 1945

AFL DEMANDS WAGE RATE INCREASE

Summers Killed By Accident While Hunting

MICHIGAN CITY — Organized labor in Northern Indiana was stunned by word from Pierre, S.D., that Robert "Bob" Summers, outstanding AFL Teamsters Union Business Representative had been killed in a hunting accident.

Summers and four companions from LaPorte had left here last Friday for a week's hunting in South Dakota. The accident occurred as the party stopped their car to cut across fields after pheasants.

His companions rushed to his aid and took him to the hospital in Pierre, where he died an hour later at 2:30.

In the party were Eldon R. Soetje, Walter Baker, Bud Harrison and Mitchel Zonyk, all of LaPorte.

Mr. Summers was one of the state's outstanding labor leaders, being young and liberal in his dealings with his men and their problems. He was a trustee of the State Drivers Council and had been Secretary-Treasurer of Drivers Local 298 for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife, Julia; two daughters, Sharon, 11, and Judith, 9; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Summers of LaPorte, and a brother and sister. The deceased was born at Ossian, Indiana, June 4, 1914, and was 31 years old.

The Funeral

Scores of labor leaders gathered Monday morning, October (Continued on page 4)

Wilkes Given Summers' Job

MICHIGAN CITY — The Labor Beacon says that Everett (Pete) Wilkes, 34, New Buffalo, was this week appointed business agent and secretary-treasurer of Teamsters' Local 298 to succeed the late Robert Summers.

Wilkes, former Michigan City assistant to Summers, was agreed upon unanimously by the Teamsters' executive board comprising Wilbur Place, president; James Haven, vice-president; Chester Miller, recording secretary; trustees, Gerhard Reuer, Edward Boese and Homer Coburn.

Wilkes knows the Teamsters' business from the ground up. Following graduation from Wadena, Ind., high school, he attended Purdue University. For seven years after that he drove a truck.

Appointed Trustee Of Drivers Council

At the last meeting of the Indiana State Drivers Council, President Steven Toth appointed Everett Wilkes trustee of the council to succeed the late Robert Summers. Earlier in the day members of Joint Council 69, in their regular meeting stood for a moment of silent tribute to Robert Summers.



Misleading Reports of Strike Prove Need of This Newspaper

In reporting the current Spickelmier strike the Indianapolis newspapers have done a gross injustice to the union Teamsters of Indiana, according to a consensus expressed at the last meeting of Joint Council 69, representing 15,000 of these men.

The impression left by the newspapers is that the Teamsters are a gang of hoodlums, led by union officials who are given to slugging, hurling rocks and firing shots.

The three Teamster officials named in the lopsided reports are Johnnie Baker, president of Local No. 716; Raymond Friestubler, business agent of Local No. 135, and Robert McClain, of Local No. 233.

These gentlemen have not dignified by any formal denial the accusation, which everyone knows who knows them are ridiculous.

Nevertheless, they and the union are damaged because so many people believe verbatim everything they read in the newspapers, just as they swallow the half-truths of the vomiting Pegler.

These gullibles include a great raft of fifty-dollar-a-week capitalists who live on the northside of Indianapolis and who, because of their social position, find it desirable to disapprove of organized labor.

And it is these little home owners—and renovators—who in the opinion of Johnnie Baker are egging on Spickelmier to have no truck with his union truck drivers.

They vote for anti-labor representatives in the State Legislature and Congress, basing their judgment upon stories such as they have read of the Spickelmier strike, and their votes count.

(Continued on Page 3)

Joe Williams Says:

Life is an Employer,
He gives you what you ask;
But once you set the wages,
Why, you must bear the task.

I worked for menial hire,
Only to learn, dismayed,
That any wage I asked of Life,
Life would have surely paid.

Executive Council Declares Industry Can Afford to Pay Up to 30% More to Workers

CINCINNATI—In the interest of justice and national prosperity, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor demanded substantial wage increases for the nation's workers.

AFL President William Green declared the federation will give its full support to the efforts of all affiliated unions to obtain higher wage rates.

He expressed the conviction that industry is able to afford to pay wage boosts of from 20 to 30 per cent in hourly rates without materially increasing prices.

The Executive Council called upon President Truman to permit the National War Labor Board to go out of existence and to remove all government controls over wages immediately.

The Executive Council acted as the President was consulting with members of the NWLB in Washington on the advisability of reviving the agency. The firm stand taken by the Federation's leaders was expected to halt any such move.

Wasting no time in getting down to business, the council opened its fall session by firing a broadside into the advocates of continued federal economic regulation. It warned that prolongation of the life of the NWLB would result in increasing strikes and the threats of strikes, forcing labor and management to go to the government for the solution of their problems instead of settling differences through collective bargaining.

AFL President William Green told newsmen at a press conference that the Executive Council intends to formulate a plan that will reduce strikes to a minimum. He indicated that this plan will be submitted to the forthcoming labor-industry conference by the AFL delegates to that parley.

Mr. Green also revealed that the Executive Council had reaffirmed its decision of last August to forego a national convention this year. While the government's ban on conventions has been lifted since the last council meeting, the AFL

(Continued on page 4)

TEAMSTERS SUPPORT FRED F. BAYS IN PARTY DISAGREEMENT

Teamster leaders from 28 W. North Street, headquarters of five Indianapolis locals, appeared on October 12 before the Democratic Editorial Association in support of Fred F. Bays, whose resignation as chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party had been demanded by a group of anti-labor leaders in his party.

The meeting of Hoosier editors, held in the Spencer Hotel in Indianapolis, had been urged by the reactionary group to adopt a resolution demanding Bays' resignation.

After members representing labor had told the editors that Fred Bays was the best friend labor has ever had in Indiana politics, and that he was being persecuted because of his friendship for labor, the editors refused to ask for his resignation.

TOTH, 520, SIGNS 8 OIL COMPANIES

Steven Toth announced at the last meeting of the Indiana State Drivers Council that Teamsters' Local 520, of which he is secretary-treasurer, has signed an agreement with eight oil companies in East Chicago and vicinity.

The new agreement grants drivers a substantial increase and better working conditions. The raise in pay is retroactive to July, 1945. The companies are Socony Vacuum, Phillips, Sinclair, City Service, Deep Rock, Preferred Oil, Crown Point Oil and Wil-Nil Oil Co.

Last week, said Mr. Toth, the union also negotiated a new wage scale with the Midwest Liquor Co. for drivers and helpers. A substantial wage increase was obtained, together with a 40-hour week.

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The Indiana Teamster



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Vol. V

No. 2

"We're For It--If and But"

Indiana's Republican Congressmen, and Senator Capehart, glad-handed the recent large labor delegation which went to Washington to urge support of their seven-point program, which is also the program requested by President Truman, and sponsored by Democratic leaders in both houses of Congress.

One or two of these Republicans were indeed so cordial as to arouse suspicion in the minds of the visitors—in view of their completely reactionary records, up to now.

The attitude of most of the others may be summed up in the words of Senator Capehart, who promised to support the program "if" and "but."

For instance, he said he was "inclined to support" the \$25 for 26 weeks unemployment compensation, but "wouldn't say definitely that he would." And he "thought he was in favor" of the 65c an hour minimum wage bill—being of the opinion that it was "a terrible indictment of American business that such a bill is necessary, that employers have to be forced to pay an adequate wage"—but that he "couldn't commit himself" to vote for the measure until he had studied "all its implications."

One interesting observation of the Senator was that industry in Indiana is "on strike." This is also the contention of labor, which charges that while industry opposes raising workers' wages, and has lobbied against the \$25 a week for 26 weeks unemployment compensation law, it is unitedly out to kill OPA and to raise profits sky-high.

Our President

The first six months of his presidency concluded during the past week, Harry Truman has come under the close national scrutiny of news commentators, political analysts and his fellow Americans who have weighed his administration pro and con, and have unanimously concluded that he has done a remarkably good job.

They concluded that as a politician he has "steered a careful course between southern reactionaries and big city liberals, kept his fingers on the pulse of the country, striven hard for national unity." His true greatness was recognized in the days when the ratification of the United Nation's Charter, and of Bretton Woods, FAO, reciprocal trade and other issues on which world peace hinged, were hanging in the balance. Mr. Truman did achieve party unity—and even more than that, national unity, behind this program.

His critics size up his cabinet, and find it exceptionally qualified. Mr. Truman's idea of making each cabinet member responsible for the direction and work of his department of the government seems to be finding commendation from most of the voters.

The people like him because he is a "homespun" man, with no pretensions; with essential honesty, a great sense of responsibility and with friendliness and loyalty and humor to light his earnestness. Conservatives in the beginning hailed him as one of their own; but while proving to be very much of an individual, he has carried on the liberal tradition of his predecessor—the great liberal who will forever live in the hearts of the people.

10,000,000 Members by 1950

By FRANK FENTON
AFL National Director of Organization

The membership of the American Federation of Labor is now seven million strong. By 1950 we expect to pass the ten million mark.

This information may not be relished by those who hope to see the trade union movement weakened or destroyed in the postwar period. Many articles have been written about the effect of post-war unemployment and lower production upon union membership.

Anti-labor propagandists argue that since union membership dropped sharply after the last war, it should enter a similar tail-spin now. That is just wishful thinking.

First of all, it should be clear by now that the trade union movement is firmly established in America and is here to stay. Most employers have learned that it is bad business, besides being illegal, to fight unionization of their workers. And most workers have learned that they need a union to protect their interests and improve their conditions.

This is especially true among skilled workers whose craft unions are firmly entrenched and make up the backbone of the American Federation of Labor. We believe that white-collar workers are also beginning to learn the fundamental lesson that only in union is there strength. It is to these white-collar workers that we look for the largest gains in union membership during the next five years.

The American Federation of Labor has two new up-and-coming unions in the white-collar field. These are the International Chemical Workers Union and the Office Employees International Union.

The chemical industry is due for tremendous expansion and much wider employment. Our aggressive AFL union is going to grow right along with the industry, because workers will need the union to obtain the wage standards and working conditions to which the exacting and painstaking nature of their jobs entitles them.

Office workers in the past have served as a glaring example of the failure of disorganized workers to make any progress. But the old prejudices against unions have been discarded by these white-collar workers and we expect them to join our union in large numbers in order to better their conditions.

Another large source of increased union membership is the returning veterans. More than a million and a half of them were AFL members before entering the armed forces, and they are coming back to us, we know. We also extend a hearty welcome to the others to join our ranks and get a better break.

Labor Knows the Score

By WILLIAM GREEN

President, American Federation of Labor

The very life of organized labor depends very largely upon the establishment and existence of democracy. For that reason, those who believe in organized labor have worked too hard and sacrificed too much to feel kindly toward anything that threatens it.

Prejudice and intolerance are crimes against democracy. Therefore, whenever someone asks you how organized labor feels about racial and religious intolerance, inquire of him as to how he feels about crime. To anyone who understands the broader issues, the answer is as simple as that. Freedom is essential to the preservation of democracy. If and when we begin to limit it by insisting that it be denied some and applied to others because of racial or religious differences, the list of exceptions grows and materializes until finally freedom for all is ended.

For instance, the rights of the worker, his freedom to organize into a union of his own choosing and to bargain collectively for wages and decent conditions of living, are the first to be destroyed if we seek to establish limited freedom.

American workers are men and women of understanding. They fully appreciate and clearly understand that a union which functions democratically and follows a policy free from racial or religious discrimination rests upon a sound and enduring basis. They also know and fully comprehend that an organization whose members are moved by feelings of prejudice and which limits its membership to certain racial or religious groups is striking at its very vital essential—the establishment of unity and solidarity. When and if organized labor predicates membership in any union upon race, religion or ancestry, it is helping to create a potential anti-labor army that can be used by labor-baiters to fight unions, weaken its bargaining power and destroy its effectiveness.

Because organized labor is conscious of this fact, it is fully determined that the enemies of labor shall have no such weapon to use or no such power to exercise. Working men and women will maintain the traditional position they have always followed, to fight in the forefront of the battle which has always been and always will be carried on against bigotry. Workers have always supported and will continue to support the guarantees of the Constitution to all classes of people.

We know that difficulties are encountered in carrying out this program. There are those who hope to magnify prejudices and play upon them and take advantage of all human weaknesses, but the membership of organized labor is dedicated to the task of not only establishing, but preserving trade unions as a democratic force. I know that organized labor will continue to maintain and practice equality of opportunity which is a basic union principle, as well as a basic principle of American life.

At our organization's annual convention which was held some months ago, racial and religious bigotry and discrimination were condemned by a unanimous vote. The convention reaffirmed a declaration which had been made at previous conventions calling upon the American Federation of Labor to "carry on and expand the good work it has already done so that the principle of industrial equality of all men will be established beyond question in every section of the country."

The task of carrying out that mandate now rests with every union and with each and every worker who is a member of said union. We must not falter or fail. We must fight to maintain and preserve American principles and the American way of life. The faces of all working men and women must be turned everlastingly against racial and religious discrimination and in favor of freedom, liberty, equality and democracy.

IN THE KNOW WITH KOKOMO

By O. B. CHAMBERS

The regular meeting of Local 759 is held on the first Saturday of each month at the Labor Temple, 512 East Sycamore St., Kokomo, at 8:00 p.m. All members are urged to attend as this is a general meeting covering all crafts in the local.

The boys from Omar Baking Co. who work out of Kokomo Terminal are now members of Local 759 and we ask that all the people of organized labor give them their patronage. Also the Ward Baking Co. and the Colonial Bread Co.

To date Dietzen is the only bread company in our jurisdiction not 100 per cent organized, and we ask that all members of organized labor take note when buying bread. This covers the towns of Rochester, Peru, Logansport, Kokomo and Wabash, so when asking for bread ask for COLONIAL, WARD or OMAR.

Ivan Frazier, who was vice president of Local 759, is back from the service after serving 22 months in Egypt, and says that after a short vacation he will be ready to be back in the harness again.

Harvey Zellers and Phillip Saunders, two of the older members of Local 759, are back and working at the Courier Express in Logansport. Frank Sisson also is back from service and is working for Willetts, and we are mighty happy and proud in Local 759 to welcome these boys back into the local.

The last general meeting, held October 6, was well attended by the boys from all over the territory, but the Kokomo boys were not so well represented. Therefore, we are asking that at the next meeting, on November 3, these boys break the record of the out-of-town boys in attendance.

We have just finished contracts which have been approved and signed with Shell American drivers and bulk plant men, and with the Simons Wholesale Grocery in Peru, with a 15 per cent increase for all employees there.

We are now working on the Ready Mix contract covering the Transit Mix drivers, which is pretty well agreed upon. All the drivers covered by the new contract have received an average of 15 per cent increase.

One of the outstanding contracts we have at present is the Over-the-Road contract, which is being negotiated, and the contract covering the Coal Truck Drivers and the City Cartage men, which will come up in January.

According to reports coming out of Rochester, Byron Zimmerman, who represents the Armour employees, is up for his vacation in November and we are sure there will be a lot of wild game missing when Zimmerman comes back from his vacation. But there will still be meat on the table.

Kate Stucker recently became a member who is employed at Armour's, and Edith Clevenger is again back in the ranks of our people at Armour's in Rochester.

We are also glad to know that Tom Brown is back on the job at the Armour Creameries, as he has been off a long time on account of illness. Tom is one of the old stand-bys!

We know most of the people at Armour's are very happy as they have received their back pay which was retroactive to May 1, 1945.

We are wondering if some of the headaches come from eating too much cheese.

MAYFLOWER GARAGE SIGNS

Teamsters Local 193 has signed an agreement with Mayflower Garage, obtaining an increase for inside workers, and also a closed shop agreement with the various Pearson Co. stores in this neighborhood.

STRIKE STORY PROVES NEED OF THIS PAPER

(Continued from Page 1)

(Which is why we have lemons like Halleck and Harness in Washington.)

For instance, a drug clerk in a College Ave. pharmacy upbraided President Daniel J. Tobin of the International Brotherhood the other day when Mr. Tobin called to get a case of Coca-Cola.

"That's a hell of a thing you people are doing—picketing Spickelmier that way!" said the graying drug clerk, who by common knowledge in the neighborhood works from 8 a. m. until 10 o'clock at night, six days a week, and all day every other Sunday.

President Tobin glanced curiously at the clerk and reportedly replied:

"You ought to belong to a union yourself. Then you wouldn't have to work eighty hours a week for fifty dollars."

Drivers Themselves Want the Union

Now the house of Spickelmier is the biggest, or one of the biggest dealers in building supplies in Indiana. When all of its truck drivers applied for membership in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters it appeared to be a good time to organize the concern. These drivers were logical members of Local 716 of the Coal, Ice and Building Material Drivers and Helpers, and Johnie Baker, president of that local, welcomed their applications.

But when he and other officials of the union attempted to deal collectively for the drivers with the Spickelmier management they ran against a concrete wall.

There was no question of wages, hours or working conditions. Only a union contract. Spickelmier said, "No."

Thereupon the drivers themselves, by unanimous vote, went on strike, and started picketing Spickelmier's big warehouses, at 1080 East 52nd St. and 108 South Denny St., and the Builders Sand and Gravel Co., a Spickelmier-owned plant, at 73rd St. and Keystone Ave.

The strike was enlivened when a non-union truck driver assertedly tried to run down a picket and called him abusive names, and the picket acted like any man might act when he finds another man taking his job.

The house of Spickelmier jumped upon the incident to hire a lawyer and get an injunction, restraining the union officials, not the man who was involved, but the union officials themselves from committing any acts of criminal violence against Spickelmier or his non-union help or his customers.

The officials—Baker, Friestuhler and McClain—accepted this order without protest, just as they would have agreed to cease kicking their wives. For not one of them had been guilty of any disorder in the past or present and none of them had any criminality planned for the future.

The temporary injunction was signed by Judge Emsley W. Johnson, Jr., in the Marion County Superior Court.

Witnesses at the hearing were Ernest Spickelmier, Doyle W. Gray, of 6351 North Keystone Ave., a strike-breaking driver, and E. B. Palmer, of 5122 Grandview Dr., a customer, who ran the picket line to get materials.

The three witnesses painted a black picture, accusing the union Teamsters of hurling a "huge rock" through the windshield of Gray's truck, assaulting the picket-jumping Palmer and of shooting at Spickelmier's trucks.

Later investigation revealed that no huge rock or any other kind of rock had been hurled through Gray's windshield, and that no credible witness can be found who heard any shots fired at Spickelmier's trucks.

(Theory of the business agents is that the non-union drivers heard their own vehicles backfiring and were so scared they thought they were being shot at.)

But what is more significant in contradicting the testimony of the obviously prejudiced witnesses at the hearing is the fact

that their stories did not bring about the prosecution of any man they accused.

Neither the Indianapolis police nor the Marion county prosecutor have brought action against these men, which they certainly would have taken had they believed the accusations.

If shots were fired why aren't the men who fired them in jail?

Spickelmier didn't have any of the business agents arrested, for the simple reason he doesn't want a suit for false arrest. He hasn't any evidence against the men he accused and he knows it too well to take a chance on paying big damages.

But anyone can get an injunction, if only for the purpose of newspaper publicity, and few men will object to being legally restrained from doing something which they have not done and have no intention of doing.

Now the Indianapolis newspapers have so little space that they can publish only the most interesting highlights of what is going on here and elsewhere. To the editors of these newspapers the Spickelmier matter was only a one-day strike story, and not so hot at that—no one was mysteriously murdered.

The Star took the story from the court records, without doing more than verify the spelling of Spickelmier's name. And the afternoon editors told their rewrite men to keep it short.

The unfortunate part of such publicity, from the Teamsters' point of view, is that the original story, from which the others were copied, was not written by Joseph K. Shepard, the Star's labor editor. He has been around enough to know the difference between truth and allegation.

He would have questioned, for instance, the assertion in a Marion county court, that the leaders of three of the biggest labor organizations in Indiana are hoodlums who throw rocks at delivery wagons, slap people and fire shots.

If that statement would stand up any editor should give it a front page smash and collect the Pulitzer prize.

Shepard would have questioned the assertion that the Teamster officials were trying to organize Spickelmier, butting in where they weren't invited, and would have learned that the Teamster officials were acting under the specific mandate of the Spickelmier drivers.

And, of course, he would have wondered, being more than eight years old, why if there was so much criminality there was no police action.

This story has passed news interest now and will be forgotten unless another appears, indicating that Spickelmier has gone out of business.

The Teamsters are hot on his trail and are cutting off his supplies at the source, with an effectiveness indicating that sooner or later he will sign an agreement and be palsy walsy with the very men he is now so mad at.

Supplies which Spickelmier is not receiving today, according to information received at 28 West North St., include the following:

Tile and brick from Brazil, Ind., where the Clay Products Workers, AFL, to refuse to load orders consigned to Spickelmier.
Brick from the big manufacturing plant in Brooklyn, Ind., where members of Teamsters Union 716 are working.
Cement and mortar from Osborn, Ohio.
Steel window sash from Batesville, Ind.
Vitrified tile and other clay products from Denison, Ohio.
Vitrified products from Uhrichsville, Ohio.

Members of organized labor elsewhere who are working for manufacturing plants which might be supplying Spickelmier are urged to co-operate with Local 716.

This message is issued also to Indianapolis truck drivers who may be hauling materials to locations in Indianapolis, particularly on the north side, where there are obviously no building operations.

Spickelmier is known to be making warehouses out of private residences, rented for the purpose and calculated to be unknown to the union. Any drivers spotting these dumping grounds should notify the union.

THINGS I SEE AROUND 1-9-3

By TRAFFIC COP

Chas. Eskew and committee, including Mike Granat, M. Marinchak and L. S. Weisenberger (sounds like the backfield of the "Fighting Irish"), did OK on recent garage employers negotiations at Mayflower's. We had some pretty good opposition, too.

"Tiny" Clifton of Perkins tells me the men have accepted the counter proposal submitted by the company. Tiny's had a little tough luck recently—a death in the family, and some sickness.

Business Agent Mike Granat dumped this job in my lap, and I quote: "From now on you're the writer for Local 193, and get it in every month"—end of quote.

Heck—news is scarier than hen's teeth. Why don't youse guys do something once in a while?

"Pat" Patterson, of Northside Transfer, finally broke down and attended a meeting—sat right in the front row, too.

Mr. Robt. Terry, of Columbia Terminals, almost attended the meeting on time this month—he was only one-half hour late. What's the old saying, Bob, "better late than never" or "better never late."

My gang here at Shanks are operating so short that we had Mr. Walker handling a couple of chairs. These coids get a guy down—even Sam Thomas has to have some help now to lift a plane.

Katz Gets Raises For Distillery Men

RICHMOND—J. K. Katz, head of Teamsters' Union Local 691, has obtained a contract with the Old Quaker distillery at Lawrenceburg, giving union drivers and helpers a substantial wage increase and better working conditions.

The agreement provides for vacation of one week after one year, two weeks after three years and three weeks after ten years; time and one-half after eight hours, with double time for Sundays and holidays and straight time for holidays if the men are not employed on those days. In addition the members get four personal days off a year.

The contract is retroactive to October 1, 1945.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

Of The Indiana Teamster, published monthly at 28 W. North St., Indianapolis, Indiana, for October, 1945.

State of Indiana, County of Marion, ss:

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Scott Armstrong, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the present Editor of The Indiana Teamster, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher—Indiana State Drivers' Council, 28 W. North St., Indianapolis, Ind.
Editor—Scott Armstrong, 28 W. North St., Indianapolis, Ind.
Managing Editor—None.
Business Managers—None.

2. That the owner is: The Indiana State Drivers' Council, state organization of The Teamsters' Union, 28 W. North St., Indianapolis, Indiana.

SCOTT ARMSTRONG
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of October, 1945.

ELEANOR TOWERS.
(My commission expires June 17, 1948.)

UNEMPLOYMENT IS HERE AGAIN, SURVEY IN COLLIER'S REVEALS

(Excerpts from a recent article by Lester Velie in Collier's.)

The great demobilization has begun. In this demobilization some 3½ million war workers must find new jobs, retrieve old ones or drop out. So must some nine million servicemen even after allowing for three million who may stay in the larger postwar Army and Navy.

How will these 17½ million demobilized persons make out? Put on your rose-colored glasses and you see them making out all right. You see American industry preparing to spend \$4,500,000,000 on new ob-giving plants and machinery (three times the prewar average) in the next 12 months; you see goods-starved consumers, loaded down with 140 billions or more of cash and savings, scrambling to buy; you see American machinery, chemicals, raw materials flowing abroad at a ten-billion-dollar-a-year clip; you see a great housing boom. In short, you see prosperity.

Put on your black glasses and you see the great deflation wringer at work; you see purchasing power taking a nose-dive because workers are jobless or have shifted to lower paying jobs, or have taken a cut of 20 per cent or more because they no longer work overtime; you see that the jobless don't buy, and so endanger the jobs of others; that manufacturers become jittery and think twice before building the new plants they had planned. In short, you see depression.

Which will it be?
Organized labor warns it will be depression unless basic wages are hiked 20 per cent, and unless some 16 billion dollars worth of government war plants are put to work to provide jobs during peace. Industry is not unanimous. Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, believes that less than 1,500,000 workers will be out of work for more than 30 days, and most of these will have a job within three months. Other industry spokesmen believe the recon-

version transition will be severe, and the important Committee for Economic Development believes that government cooperation may be necessary.

Government, through such spokesmen as Secretary of the Treasury Fred M. Vinson, says we must learn to live 50 per cent better than before the war—or else.

Or else what? The answer is mass unemployment. For unless we do better than in 1939, an average prewar year, we will have 11 million looking for jobs when the demobilization is over. The arithmetic is simple:

War-time employed (1944)	51,200,000
Returning servicemen	8,800,000
Total	60,000,000
Women, aged, others who'll retire	4,000,000
Postwar job seekers	56,000,000
Employed in 1939	45,000,000
Surplus	11,000,000

That is the ultimate problem we have to face now that the war is over, the boys have started coming home, the war plant smokestacks are growing cold. But before that problem rolls up on the horizon another and almost equally important one is already here: reconversion unemployment.

Many Americans are getting a foretaste of the bitter dose of unemployment during the present reconversion period. V-E Day started war production downhill. Plants began closing their doors. Half a million war workers had already been let out before V-J Day.

By year's end, the number will have swelled to eight million (including soldiers), according to Washington estimates. Some 1,500,000 jobless workers and veterans were already pounding the streets looking for jobs by V-J Day.

This winter, then, America faces mass unemployment for the first time in years.

HUNT CALLS FOR NEWS FROM ALL LOCALS

(Continued from page 1)

to appoint some member to supply this newspaper every month with information about his union activities and the doings of his members.

"In every local," said Hunt, "there is some member who likes to write and to see his thoughts in print. This is the member who should be designated as official correspondent of the paper."

Battle of Minnesota

In illustrating the service which *The Indiana Teamster* could perform for its members, Mr. Hunt told the story of the battle of Minnesota, and of the help given to the Teamsters' Union by *The Northwest Teamster*, which is to Minnesota what this newspaper could be in Indiana.

Four or five years ago, he said, CIO organizers came into Minnesota and started stealing the Teamsters. They got control of the Teamsters' newspaper and were effectively boring into the International Brotherhood.

"Therefore, we started our own newspaper, *The Minnesota Teamster*, now *The Northwest Teamster*, and gave our members truthful answers to the CIO's lying propaganda.

"The A. F. of L. brotherhood won the battle."

"This proves two things," said Mr. Hunt:

"The union with the best publicity wins the battle.

"The battle of Minnesota could be fought out here in Indiana at any time.

"We knew," he said, "that the CIO had planned to try its campaign to steal A. F. of L. Teamsters in Minnesota, with a

view to spreading that campaign over eight states in case it succeeded in Minnesota.

"One of the reasons that scheme failed was a little newspaper," he said.

Importance of Correspondents

The liveliness of any newspaper, said Mr. Hunt, is supplied by its reporters. Our Teamster readers will look at the pictures on page one, but their real interest will be in the news about themselves or someone they know.

Leafing through this paper's last edition, and not judging its past numbers, Mr. Hunt expressed the opinion that its most interesting features were Drewry's Diary, O. B. Chambers, "Traffic Cop," speaking anonymously for Local No. 193, and D. E. Mahoney.

"This paper would be perfect," he said, "if it had twenty more local features like any of these.

"But as it stands the paper has a personal interest for the members of only four locals out of 24 locals in the State who are paying for its publication.

"What about the members of the other twenty locals? What are they doing and thinking and how are they trying to better their condition? We do not know, for the simple reason that their paid representatives are not telling us about them.

"Therefore," said Mr. Hunt, addressing his remarks to 30,000 Hoosier truck drivers, "if you don't like the newspaper for which you are paying, place the blame where it belongs, squarely upon the inactive pen of your local officers."

AFL Demands Wage Increases

(Continued from page 1)

leaders decided it would be impossible to make arrangements and obtain accommodations for a convention before the year ends. Therefore, the next AFL convention will take place in October, 1946.

In its statement on the NWLB, the council declared that the board had outlived its usefulness, that its authority had been weakened almost to the vanishing point and that new legislation would be needed to give its decisions force and effect now.

"Such legislation," said the council, "would usher in another period of government by emergency. The executive council believes the nation has had enough of that. The time has come to move in the opposite direction. The time has come for the people of America—including labor and management—to stand on their own feet instead of depending upon the government."

According to reports in Washington, the CIO was the only group to urge continuation of the NWLB. Without mentioning any names, the executive council said in its statement:

"Those who desire prolongation of the National War Labor Board have no confidence in themselves nor in the operation of the free enterprise system. They are ready to admit that the American way of life is a failure.

"The American Federation of Labor does not share these views. We firmly believe that the way to establish industrial peace and stability is to remove government control of wages immediately, instead of reinforcing it."

The council warned that government policies designed to prevent inflation already have resulted in deflation—"sharp deflation of the income of the nation's workers."

With wage earnings and take-home pay dropping suddenly below subsistence levels, it is no wonder

that strikes are taking place, the council said.

Calling up President Truman to adopt a new course, the council insisted that wage controls can be lifted while price control and rent control are continued until peacetime production and construction are expanded to meet public demands.

"Wage rates should be permitted 'to rise' to their proper level through the free exercise of collective bargaining," the council emphasized. It also urged that business be encouraged to keep prices down through the operation of normal competition.

Mr. Green said that because of new and cheaper methods of production and because of higher labor productivity, industry for the most part can afford to pay higher wage rates without lifting consumer prices.

HICKS BODY GIVES RAISES

LAFAYETTE—Contract signed with Hicks Body Co. gives Teamster members of Local 543 wage increase and improved working conditions, according to an announcement by S. W. Helton, union head. Lumber companies in this vicinity also have signed to raise wages for the Teamsters, Helton announced.

Notice to BA's

The deadline on copy for "The Indiana Teamster" is the first Monday after the regular monthly meeting of the Indiana State Drivers Council.

You MUST send in copy by this date—and we mean it both ways. You must send copy and on time.

DeRolf Demands Prewar Delivery

HAMMOND—Calumet area teamsters and drivers have joined the nation-wide move of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers for the restoration of prewar delivery service on milk, food, laundry and other products.

All local unions of the Brotherhood have received orders from the International office to refuse to sign any agreements for continuance of the suspension of daily deliveries, instituted as a war measure.

Ray De Rolf, secretary of Hammond drivers' Local 362, said that his union would also fight for the resumption of department store deliveries.

Summers Killed By Accident While Hunting

(Continued from page 1)

15, at LaPorte to pay their respects to Mr. Summers.

Services were held at the Haverstock funeral home at 10:30 with Reverend Mark L. Marshall officiating. Burial was in Pine Lake cemetery, LaPorte.

While not at the services Monday morning, Thomas Flynn, assistant to the International President of the Teamsters, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown, the latter International Auditor of the Teamsters, paid their respects Sunday.

At the funeral was a large delegation of Lake County representatives. They included Gale Murrin, president of the Lake County Central Labor; William Rohrberg, International Auditor; Painters; Steven Toth, East Chicago, president Indiana State Drivers Council; Michael So-wachka, business agent, Teamsters 142; Gary; J. L. Strickland, Teamsters; Gary; E. J. Dwyer, Steamfitters; Gary; Bert Stevenson, Plumbers; Gary; J. Kopek, Mechanics; and Arlie Preno, Sheet Metal Workers.

Others were J. L. O'Brien, general vice president Brotherhood Railway Carmen, and Lloyd Thrush, International Representative AFL; Jack Edwards, International Representative Laundry Workers; J. L. "Pat" McGrath, International Brotherhood Electrical Workers; George Skree, Teamsters, Terre Haute; from LaPorte, Helen Anderson, F. L. U. 23139; Mr. and Mrs. Al Schumacher, Carpenters; and Sylvester Jaske of the Laborers, attended.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DEMANDS PAY INCREASES

PHILADELPHIA—Unless payrolls are raised in proportion to industry's ability to increase production, the country faces "inevitable disaster."

That belief was voiced by Abe Fortas, undersecretary of the Department of the Interior, at a conference on social work held here.

He said the country has not yet estimated the increased productivity caused by technological developments during the war.

"But even in the prewar years," he declared, "the advances were enormous. In 1940, payrolls in real money were only four per cent above 1925, although industrial productivity had increased 43 per cent.



Sept. 1—Did you see September Morn?

Sept. 2—Dick Clark sure got that "Bowsher Fluid" the hard way.

Sept. 3—The best way to get Joe Wieger is to have his wife start the car for him.

Sept. 4—George Irons is in the coon-dog business. At least they get him out at night.

Sept. 5—"Pop" Wade, the night watchman, should be careful whom he taps on the shoulder. Hi, Bob!

Sept. 6—Why did Vic DeMeyer get mad at Rodney?

Sept. 7—George "Zeke" Zack hasn't figured out what color to paint that car. What's the matter, Zeke, does Tom know where you are most of the time?

Sept. 8—Looks like "Duke" Armstrong is ready for another trip to the Windy City. Easy money.

Sept. 9—According to Joe Benko, there is a new bowling ball and shoes for sale by George Molnar.

Sept. 10—Mike Szczerba thinks that Ford is a Buick or better.

Sept. 11—I will hold that \$100 for Joe Benko and Bob Singleton on the filler bet. Come on, boys, fork over.

Sept. 12—"Buff" Walters is in good practice for a fireman's job with all his fire fighting on the coal pile.

Sept. 13—Can anyone tell me why Otto Cenkush almost left town?

Sept. 14—Howard Whiteman and Zeke are hotel hounds.

Sept. 15—Ernie Makielski is allergic to wing slapping. Looking for a stork, Ernie?

Sept. 16—Joe Farkas can argue more over those three games than on a new contract. What's the matter, Joe, don't you think we will take them?

Sept. 17—Dommic Simeri must have lost his pay on the boat as he is working his furlough back in the bottle-shop. Good luck, "Dom."

Sept. 18—Don't let this out, but Dooley will be a foreman starting October 1 (for one week).

Sept. 19—"Big Foot" Stanley should not let Otto get his goat. Bet him, Stanley.

Sept. 20—Chet LaPierre and Eddie Roytek are back in their old nest.

Sept. 21—Harry Kazmierczak done lost his appendix. Hurry back, Harry.

Sept. 22—You guys will have to call Mr. Rodney by his given name of Marshall since he is in the dough.

Sept. 23—Gasper Signorino is back on the job and damn glad of it. He was one of the first to leave and sure saw a lot of the Pacific ocean and the islands that are in it.

Sept. 24—Lots of luck to Bruno Bolestri on his hunting trip up in the Dakotas. At least you will have peace up there, Bruno. P. S.—I like pheasant.

Sept. 25—Steve Wieger is the official drunk taker homer.

Sept. 26—Between Olga and Fran Weber there is one around this plant at any hour of the day or night.

Sept. 27—How did Joe Wieger rip those \$20.00 pants?

Sept. 28—Big Phil Dlugosz is now working in the wash-house and we sure are glad of that.

Sept. 29—A very good crowd of out-of-town guests in for the game and a perfect day as far as weather and the final score. N. D. 7—Illinois 0.

Sept. 30—Have you thought about that Victory Bond? They are sure nice to keep and redeem in ten years.

New 35-Truck Depot

FORT WAYNE—Keeshin Motor Express, Inc., has under construction a new \$60,000 terminal here, according to George Mason, terminal manager in charge of all company operations in southern and central Ohio, southern Michigan and northern and central Indiana.

The new terminal, which will serve 35 trucks at one time, is scheduled for completion about Dec. 1, Mr. Mason said. Keeshin operates 24 trucks from its present Fort Wayne terminal and plans to buy several new ones soon, he added.

Local 188 Signs 5 Major Bakeries

Teamsters Local 188, of Indianapolis, headed by C. E. Davis, has signed blanket contracts with all five of the major wholesale bread-baking companies in this city.

Riders to the contracts give the men a guaranteed work week, shorter hours and increase of \$6 per week in their guaranteed basic pay.

Contracts are retroactive to June 1, 1945.

The companies which signed are Colonial Baking Co., Continental Baking Co., General Baking Co., Purity Bakeries Corp., and West Baking Co.

Representing the union in the negotiations with Mr. Davis were: Leonard W. Bea, of Continental; Morris Davis, of Colonial; Charles Teney, Purity; O. B. Keller, West, and Ulrich Bauer, General.

Truck Owners to Meet On Subject of Safety

The Indiana Motor Truck Association will hold its annual convention in the Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Nov. 2 and 3. J. E. Nicholas, executive secretary of the organization, has announced.

The two-day meeting will be devoted to discussions of safety and operations of the trucking industry, and more than 300 members from over the state will attend.